

BC LANDSCAPE LIGHTING JUDGING CRITERIA

Note: half points are acceptable. Where criteria does not apply disregard and adjust total accordingly.

OVERALL IMPRESSION - 35 TOTAL POINTS	Description	Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Overall first impression and visual impact	Outstanding Aesthetic Impression; Creates a memorable nighttime landscape through thoughtful illumination, visual balance, and a strong sense of depth, hierarchy, and atmosphere.	Good Aesthetic Impression; Visually appealing and cohesive with thoughtful lighting that contributes to a strong overall nighttime impression.	Fair to Poor Aesthetic Impression; Lacks strong visual impact or feels inconsistent, overlit, underlit, or disconnected from the landscape.	10
		Excellent proportion and scale achieved through balanced illumination that complements the landscape and architecture.	Good proportion and scale achieved with generally balanced illumination and appropriate emphasis.	Proportion and scale not achieved; lighting appears unbalanced or does not appropriately relate to the landscape or architecture.	
		Lighting enhances the landscape by revealing form, texture, and focal points while drawing attention to the landscape rather than the lighting itself.	Lighting effectively enhances key landscape features with some opportunities to strengthen hierarchy or visual interest.	Lighting competes with the landscape, creating visual distractions, poor emphasis, or little distinction between primary and secondary features.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Degree of uniqueness or difficulty of situation	Excellent ingenuity and unique approach to lighting challenges presented by the site.	Good ingenuity and approach to addressing lighting challenges presented by the site.	Average ingenuity and approach to lighting challenges.	10
		Successfully transforms challenging site conditions into a cohesive, functional, and visually compelling nighttime landscape.	Successfully addresses site conditions with thoughtful lighting solutions and only minor opportunities for refinement.	Demonstrates little response to site-specific challenges or relies on conventional solutions with limited visual or functional success.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Integration with the landscape and architecture	Excellent integration of lighting with the landscape and surrounding architecture, creating a unified nighttime environment.	Good integration of lighting with the landscape and surrounding architecture.	Poor integration; lighting appears disconnected from the landscape or architecture.	10
		Lighting complements the intended landscape design while enhancing form, texture, and spatial relationships.	Lighting generally supports the intended landscape design with some opportunities for stronger integration.	Lighting lacks cohesiveness or competes with the landscape and architectural elements.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	d) Harmony of the lighting design elements	Excellent harmony and unification of lighting throughout the landscape.	Good harmony and unification of lighting throughout the landscape.	Poor harmony and unification of the lighting design.	5
		Lighting establishes a clear hierarchy and balanced composition that creates rhythm and visual interest.	Lighting establishes a generally balanced composition with some opportunities to strengthen hierarchy or rhythm.	Lighting lacks hierarchy or balance, resulting in a flat or inconsistent nighttime appearance.	

LIGHTING DESIGN & EFFECTS - 40 TOTAL POINTS		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Lighting composition and hierarchy	Excellent composition creates clear hierarchy, rhythm, and visual balance throughout the landscape.	Good composition creates visual interest and hierarchy throughout most of the landscape.	Poor composition lacks hierarchy or balance, resulting in a flat or inconsistent nighttime appearance.	10
		Lighting effectively guides the eye to key landscape features while maintaining appropriate contrast and visual flow.	Lighting highlights key features with generally appropriate contrast and visual flow.	Lighting provides little distinction between primary and secondary features or creates competing focal points.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Fixture selection and placement	Excellent fixture selection suited to the intended lighting effect and site conditions.	Good fixture selection appropriate to the intended lighting effect and site conditions.	Fixture selection lacks intention or suitability for the intended application.	10
		Fixtures are thoughtfully located and integrate seamlessly into the landscape with minimal daytime visibility.	Fixtures are generally well located and integrated with only minor opportunities for refinement.	Fixtures are visually prominent, poorly located, or detract from the overall landscape appearance.	
		Fixture placement effectively illuminates the intended landscape features while maintaining proper spacing, scale, and visual balance.	Fixture placement generally achieves the intended lighting effect with some opportunities to improve emphasis or balance.	Fixture placement results in poor emphasis, inconsistent lighting, or ineffective coverage of landscape features.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Lighting techniques and intended effects	Excellent application of lighting techniques appropriate to the landscape and intended effect.	Good application of lighting techniques appropriate to the landscape and intended effect.	Average or inappropriate application of lighting techniques that do not fully support the landscape or intended effect.	10
		Beam spread, aiming, and light distribution are thoughtfully selected to reveal form, texture, depth, and focal points.	Beam spread, aiming, and light distribution are generally appropriate, with some opportunities for refinement.	Beam spread, aiming, or light distribution create hotspots, excessive shadowing, or uneven illumination.	
		Lighting effects appear intentional and refined, enhancing the landscape without drawing unnecessary attention to the fixtures themselves.	Lighting effects successfully enhance the landscape, though some areas could benefit from stronger refinement or consistency.	Lighting effects lack intention or consistency, resulting in distracting, flat, or ineffective illumination.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	d) Responsible lighting practices	Excellent control of glare, light trespass, and unnecessary spill light while maintaining the intended lighting effect.	Good control of glare and light spill with only minor opportunities for refinement.	Glare, light trespass, or excessive spill light detract from the project and reduce visual comfort.	10
		Appropriate light levels and consistent colour temperature enhance the landscape while demonstrating restraint and responsible lighting practices.	Appropriate light levels and generally consistent colour temperature support the overall project.	Lighting levels or colour temperature are inconsistent, excessive, or insufficient, reducing visual cohesion and effectiveness.	

INSTALLATION & TECHNICAL EXECUTION – 25 TOTAL POINTS					
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Installation quality and workmanship	Excellent attention to installation quality and workmanship throughout the project.	Good attention to installation quality and workmanship throughout the project.	Fair installation quality and workmanship; improvements required.	10
		Fixtures are securely installed, consistently aligned, and positioned with precision.	Fixtures are securely installed with generally consistent alignment and positioning.	Fixtures appear misaligned, unstable, inconsistently installed, or poorly positioned.	
		The installation maintains a clean, professional appearance during both daytime and nighttime viewing.	The installation presents a generally clean appearance with only minor opportunities for refinement.	Visible fixtures, wiring, or associated components detract from the overall appearance of the project.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Technical execution and long-term performance	Excellent technical planning demonstrates thoughtful circuit layout, fixture zoning, and product selection appropriate for the site and intended lighting effects.	Good technical planning supports the intended lighting design with generally appropriate system layout and product selection.	Technical planning lacks intention or appears insufficient to support the intended lighting design.	10
		Lighting plans demonstrate a logical, well-organized system that supports efficient operation, future maintenance, and long-term performance.	Lighting plans demonstrate a practical system with only minor opportunities for refinement.	Lighting plans demonstrate limited consideration for system organization, servicing, or long-term performance.	
		Fixture placement and system layout reflect thoughtful consideration for landscape maintenance, accessibility, and durability.	Fixture placement and system layout generally support ongoing maintenance and long-term reliability.	Fixture placement or system layout may create unnecessary maintenance challenges or reduce long-term reliability.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Functionality and safety	Excellent attention to functionality and safety, enhancing circulation, wayfinding, and user comfort throughout the landscape.	Good attention to functionality and safety with only minor opportunities for refinement.	Functionality or safety is compromised by inconsistent illumination, poor fixture placement, or inadequate lighting of key circulation areas.	5
		Lighting appropriately illuminates pathways, stairs, entrances, and gathering spaces without creating glare or unnecessary visual distraction.	Lighting generally supports safe movement and usability throughout the landscape.	Lighting provides limited functional benefit or creates discomfort through poor illumination, excessive brightness, or distracting fixture placement.	

BONUS POINTS: These can be distributed as one point for each statement below or any combination there of at the discretion of the judge, up to a max of 4 Total Bonus Points.

Landscape lighting demonstrates exceptional creativity or innovation.
The project demonstrates exemplary success in overcoming a difficult lighting challenge.
The lighting installation demonstrates responsible lighting practices beyond standard expectations.
Innovative controls, programming, or technology enhance the user experience.

FOOTNOTE: The following definitions apply to the terms above, where they are included for ease of evaluation within the Landscape Lighting category. Hierarchy: The intentional use of lighting to establish visual importance, guiding the eye to key landscape features while maintaining balance and avoiding equal emphasis across all elements. Lighting Techniques: The purposeful application of lighting methods, such as accent lighting, grazing, silhouetting, moonlighting, shadowing, wall washing, or path lighting, to enhance the landscape and achieve the intended visual effect. Light Trespass: Light that extends beyond the intended area, creating unwanted illumination on neighbouring properties or areas not intended to be lit. Glare: Excessive or poorly directed light that causes visual discomfort or distracts from the landscape by drawing attention to the light source rather than the illuminated feature. Colour Temperature: The perceived warmth or coolness of light. Appropriate and consistent colour temperature should complement the landscape, architecture, and intended lighting effect. Hotspot: An area of excessive brightness created when a lighting fixture is improperly selected, aimed, or positioned, resulting in uneven illumination that detracts from the overall landscape.
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